

### REMARKS

Applicants request cancellation of claims 1-31, as filed, and entry of newly added claims 32-52, presented above, prior to examination of the claims on their merits. It is urged that there is a clear basis, in the application as filed, for the newly added claims.

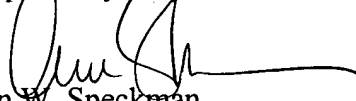
This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted prior to any action on the merits and in connection with a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Petition to Make Special. In accordance with the requirements for consideration of the Petition to Make Special, applicants believe that all of the newly presented claims are directed to a single invention. If the Office determines that all claims are not directed to a single invention, applicants will promptly make an election without traverse.

Applicants request that the Petition for Accelerated Examination be granted, and urge that the pending claims are in allowable condition. Early consideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

#### *Charge Deposit Account*

Please charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-3555.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ann W. Speckman  
Registration No. 31,881

Date: August 31, 2004

**SPECKMAN LAW GROUP PLLC**  
**20601**